

# Our Children

ELON HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Snyder Campus • P.O. Box 157 • Elon, NC 27244 • 336/584-0091

Kennedy Campus • 1717 Sharon Road West • Charlotte, NC 28210 • 704/369-2500

## Major Construction, Renovations Underway at Snyder Campus

In April, Elon Homes for Children and Elon University finalized the property sale that transferred 75 acres of the existing Snyder Campus to the university. The transferred property lies east of South Antioch Avenue and includes several buildings. The area west of South Antioch remains the property of Elon Homes for Children Inc.

Construction has begun on the Snyder Campus 32-bed residential treatment facility scheduled to be completed by December. Renovation is also underway at the former Barringer Center for Child Development which will soon house Lakeside Charter Public School and administrative offices. Two separate structures (existing cottages) have been retained and will be used for the Assessment Unit and staff training.

The new facility will permit Elon Homes to offer Levels I, II and III residential treatment and community based treatment services as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services and as currently offered at Kennedy Campus in Charlotte.

The university will lease existing buildings on the property back to Elon Homes while the treatment unit is being built so there will be no interruption in residential services.

The Barringer renovation will be completed in August and the level systems and the testing unit will be ready by September 2003.

The expansion into Levels I - III will serve children more effectively as will the expansion of the charter public high school. Both the Assessment Unit for residents and the academic, emotional and psychological testing program for teenagers from the community on a day treatment basis are important enhancements to the home's programs.

Elon Homes President Fred Grosse said, "Elon Homes is adjusting its mission to focus on the needs of 12- to 18-year-old at risk children. The new focus requires different facilities and an upgrade in programming. By selling this land, we will gain the resources we need to better serve our young people, giving them more security and a better place to live." continued on bottom of page 2

*Elon Homes VP for Operations Jorge Aguilar reports Keck Company has the building contract for the 32 bed, 13,500 square foot red brick residential treatment facility at Snyder Campus. Separate entries will lead to two distinct areas each with bedrooms and baths, kitchenettes, recreation rooms, great rooms, offices, storage, etc. Central dining for students and staff will be in the Barringer Center.*



# From Your President



Greetings in the name of our risen Lord.

Elon Homes for Children, Inc. has been blessed for many, many years with support from the community. Our

community of support includes the people of Alamance, Mecklenburg, and Guilford Counties and a host of other citizens in other North Carolina counties, members in many, many United Churches of Christ as well as congregations of other denominations, philanthropic groups and foundations in several states and former orphans and residents of our home. This support takes many forms: prayer, financial contributions, political advocacy, mentoring, volunteer hours, in-kind gift donations, wills and other deferred gifts, program evaluations and reviews, and board governance. We are deeply appreciative and humbled by the constant and bountiful support we receive at our home.

The children and families in our care benefit a great deal from this support. Whether you are directly helping a child, a staff member, involved in policy making and governance, a donor, or one who prays in private for children in need, your assistance is both welcome and helpful. In the pages of

this newsletter you will read about many exciting activities at our home. The sacredness of human life is upheld by our staff and programs twenty-four hours a day. All of these activities are possible because we have such a strong community of support. As a church based nonprofit corporation we value as a core issue the participation of the public in our mission.

Our agency Ends, or primary goals, are **safe haven, life skills and education**. Each of these Ends includes a multitude of programs, actions and protocols to bring about its effectiveness. In truth, even the most fancy and well written plan or End will only succeed when human interactions of trust and love abound. The call of Christ was to servanthood, giving of the self for the Kingdom of God, and faithfulness to the community. We believe in this call at Elon Homes for Children, and we welcome into our home all those who seek to serve Him and bring healing and hope to our children. On behalf of the children and families in our care, I thank you very much for your support and sharing in our ministry.

God's blessings,

Frederick G. Gross  
President

## OUR MISSION

To provide a continuum of services that enhances the quality of spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational well-being of youth and their families.

We endeavor to provide an opportunity for those we serve to live a more caring, responsible and productive life through our commitment to excellence.

## OUR CHILDREN

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**Elon Homes for Children**

103 Antioch Street

Elon, NC 27244

www.elonhomes.org

**Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Grosse, President**

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## Major Construction continued from page 1

Elon University President Leo M. Lambert stated, "We believe this purchase will be of great benefit to the community and to Elon Homes, which has been a close neighbor for more than 100 years. These two institutions have a long tradition of supporting each other and working with common interest." University long-range plans include using the property for recreation fields and a variety of student activities.

### SERVICES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ Residential Long-term, Level I
- ❖ Residential Treatment, Level II & III
- Assessment & Diagnostic
- ❖ Charter Public Schools
- ❖ Spiritual Life
- ❖ Specialized Foster Care
- ❖ Family Care



## SPECIAL EVENTS



Photo by Jerry Slayton

*Postponed by the December ice storm, the Kennedy Campus FIRST FAMILIES-ADVENT Dinner was held in February at the Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte. Judy Harrison-Barry (far left) was honored with the 2002 Mary Elizabeth Francis Award in recognition of her leadership as chair of the major gifts division of the Elon Homes Commitment to Excellence capital campaign. David Kennedy (center) presented Kennedy Awards to dedicated volunteers Susan Bullock (second from left), Kristy Davis and Tracey Turner (far right). David Kennedy is the son of Boys Town/Kennedy Campus founder Fred J. Kennedy, Jr.*

*The March Max Your Future luncheon, sponsored by the Kennedy Campus Board of Visitors, featured State Bureau of Investigations special agents John Keane and Mike DeSilva. The agents spoke about law enforcement and the function of the SBI. They also encouraged students to make wise choices and avoid risky behaviors which would jeopardize their futures. The agents also answered questions, many of which related to how students could prepare for a career in law enforcement. The students were given an opportunity to examine some of the special equipment the agents use in the line of duty. Right, Special Agent John Keane helps a student adjust a protective vest. All the students wanted to try on handcuffs!*

*Amy Okel chairs Max Your Future, one of the students' favorite activities.*



FIRST CHURCH IN MALDEN, MA has done it again! Last year the church purchased a 15-passenger van for Elon Homes and when it arrived, it was filled with sheets, towels and hygiene items. Recently, the Malden congregation mailed Snyder Campus several boxes generously filled with beautiful towel sets, sheet sets, an assortment of hygiene items, writing pads, pens, pencils, band-aids ..... Many thanks to these wonderful friends.

# Memorial Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2003

(Names in bold are those being memorialized or honored. Names of contributors follow.)

**Katherine Ash**  
Mr. and Mrs. Orvis A. Roberts

**Margaret Beard**  
Sally Welch

**Wilson Berger**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burwell

**Nancy Milloway Boyette**  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Mike Manheim

**Raymond Joseph Brady**  
D. Barkley Hendrix, Jr.  
Gary LaBrosse  
Sharon Landis  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn N. Poole, Jr.  
Glenna S. Spaite  
Thomas Thomas

**James E. Brown**  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. William Merritt and  
Family

**Eula Bryson**  
Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Harder

**Leon and Aline Chestnutt**  
Frederick M. McBroom

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**Jack Dewsbury**  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Thomason  
Billie G. Woody and Jackie L.  
Woody and Kenny Barger  
Graham Wood

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**Herman G. Harris**  
Jim Fields

**Quinton Hawley**  
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National Wholesale Company Inc.  
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**Leo Huffines**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bonino  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fanter  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Lewkowitz

**Ruby Scott Sloan**  
Mary Frances Andrews

**J. Winfred Smith**  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Stout

**Irene Stewart**  
R. V. Brown

**Marjorie F. Strickland**  
Sally Welch

**Edmund Strowd**  
Blanche M. Strowd

**Mary Tetlow**  
Richard L. Baggelaar

**Edna MacLean Tobin**  
The Kirkpatrick Family

**Oscar Tuttle**  
Sue W. LaVasque

**Rita Varnau**  
Harold Varnau

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**Joe Watkins**  
Cynthia Brewer

**Joseph W. Watkins**  
Dr. & Mrs. James C. Brewer, Jr.

**Ray B. Wesson**  
Mary F. Wesson

**Doris Whitesell**  
Mr. and Mrs. Maxie Tate

**Wade Williamson**  
Essie M. Williamson

**Grady Workman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burwell  
Dean and Dennie Coleman

# Honor Gifts

January 1 - March 31, 2003

**Rev. William J. Andes**  
Reverends Edward M. Brown  
and Joyce B. Myers-Brown

**Mrs. Oie B. Boyce**  
Benjamin F. Black

**Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fesmire**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Morris Blair

**Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Grosse**  
Paula Yancey

**Judy Harrison-Barry**  
Norman Levin

**Maude L. Huffines**  
Mr. and Mrs. Maxie Tate

**Rev. and Mrs. Peter M. Kemper**  
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**Jane McSpadden**  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Coeyman

**Shana Plott**  
Mary Elizabeth Francis

**Ray and Cathy Wallens**  
Mr. and Mrs. Reid P. Kerr, Sr.

## Director of Health Services Also Leader in NC Foster Parent Association

Through her commitment to ensuring that every child receives “exceptional care while in the foster care system, appropriate and effective services, and ultimately, a safe, permanent and loving home,” Donna Greene is making a significant impact in the lives of foster children.

By day, Greene is employed as Director of Health Services for Kennedy Campus. Charlotte native Greene is also an adoptive parent of two and a foster parent of two. A graduate of Presbyterian Nursing School and married for seven years, Greene has assumed leadership roles in several organizations established to address the needs of children in the foster care system.

Greene is serving second terms as regional vice president for the NC Foster Parent Association and as chair of its advocacy committee. The NCFPA is a statewide association of foster, adoptive and kinship parents, child advocates and others who work together to support the safety, well-being and permanent placement of the 11,000 children in the state’s foster care system. These children are placed in the custody of county Departments of Social Services primarily because of abuse, neglect or dependency.

Greene understands that foster, adoptive and kinship parents face significant challenges as they provide love, nurturance, stability and - most important - a home for their children. Her first-hand knowledge motivated her to start support groups for biological, adoptive and foster parents in Mecklenburg County.



Donna Greene

Greene also serves on the Union County Board of Health and will coordinate the fall NCFPA training conference.

Elon Homes salutes Donna Greene for her dedication on behalf of the state's most vulnerable children and is grateful for her professional contribution to the health and well-being of the students at Kennedy Campus.

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## Students’ Dream: On Campus Teen Center

The new Kennedy Campus Teen Center is a dynamic setting where students socialize, enjoy numerous recreational activities and use an array of educational resources. It is a model for providing a wholesome environment for adolescents to develop social skills, learn to interact appropriately, gain knowledge and have FUN.

Opened in late April, the center offers wide screen television for movie viewing, satellite TV with an educational

package, billiards, table tennis, arcade games, reading materials and computers for internet access.

The generosity of many individuals and organizations helped create the center. Major contributors include the Kiwanis Club of Pineville, SouthTrust Bank, Circuit City, Cargo Kids Furniture, and Brady Distributing. Other donors include the Panthers, Charlotte Knights, AMC Theaters and Creative Laminating. Students and staff are

particularly grateful to the committee, chaired by Shana Plott, Susan Bullock and Robert Alexander, that was formed to oversee the project. The Kennedy Campus maintenance staff deserves special mention for their labor and skill in renovating the space.

Thanks, too, to volunteers from SouthTrust Bank and the Kiwanis Club of Pineville for the fresh coat of vibrant blue paint and the wonderful job of refinishing and reupholstering the furniture.



*Foosball is just one of the recreational and educational activities for students in their new campus teen center. Left: Chris, Ashley, D.J. and Michael enjoy an after-school break in the center before starting study hour.*

## Fruitful Ministry Shares Sunshine in Citrus Form

In February, Elon Homes received another generous donation of citrus fruits from longtime friend Archie Lane, founder of Fruitful Ministry. For many years both campuses have benefitted from this remarkable ministry which supplies delicious Florida citrus fruit to over one hundred children's homes in the southeast.

A retired photographer, Lane and his wife have devoted 41 years to their Fruitful Ministry. Before relocating to Vero Beach, Florida, the Lanes had volunteered at the Church of God Home for Children in Sevierville, Tennessee, and sought a way to continue their commitment to the children. The Lanes soon hooked up a U-Haul loaded with fruit and set off for Tennessee where their reception told them it would not be their last trip.

For the next several years, members of their church helped pick the fruit and pay travel expenses. Other homes asked to share in the program and eventually friends in the citrus industry in the Indian River area were donating fruit. Today, six to eight major growers participate and one firm does all the packing gratis.

About 15 years ago, children's homes wanted to share excess supplies they had with other homes so Lane began picking up items and dispensing them where needed. For example, 1,500 pairs of Reeboks have been distributed, Elon Homes was able to contribute surplus light bulbs and Little Debbie cakes went far and wide.

In 2003, 5,700 cartons (4/5 bushel) of navel oranges, tangerines, tangelos, temples, red and white grapefruits were delivered with Lane driving over 8,000 miles, bringing his total miles with Fruitful Ministry to over one million.

Lane handles fruit sales during the rest of the year, his wife works as a pharmacy technician and between them, they underwrite about 80 % of the Fruitful Ministry expenses. Donations help with fuel (a major expense at roughly seven miles to the gallon), truck rentals, lodging, meals etc. Lane gives God the credit for meeting the ministry's needs and cheerfully elaborates on the many blessings that flow from this program.

For many years, the children and staff of Elon Homes have looked forward to this special treat in the midst of winter. Their enjoyment and pleasure in the fruit is a tribute to Archie Lane and his unique contribution to the lives of children. Thank you, Mr. Lane, for the fruit, but more than the fruit, we thank you for your wonderful example of service to others.



*Food Service staff Catherine Tabb, Bea Able and Annie Vinson prepare Fruitful Ministry oranges and grapefruits for a surprise after school snack.*

## It's Off to Work We Go .....

Snyder Campus staff report great success in helping secure off-campus employment for older students who have reached specific academic and behavior levels. Staff and teachers coach eligible students on interviewing skills, drive them for interviews, assist in identify possible employment opportunities, and offer encouragement.

Snyder Campus students recently have been hired as a theatre ticket agent, shoe salesperson, restaurant cook, cashier, and board of education summer worker. By helping students focus on their goals and by assisting them in obtaining jobs, staff members help ensure that these young people will know how to go about finding meaningful employment when they leave Elon Homes for Children.

Clinical Care Coordinator Dale Frazier provides an additional benefit. He helps students file their taxes and obtain refunds and has done so for several years.



### Take Charge of Education Program

**Every time** you use your Target Visa or Target Guest Card at a Target store or target.com, Target will donate an amount equal to 1% of Target Visa and Target Guest Card purchases made at Target and target.com, and 1/2% of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere, to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.

**Designate** Kennedy or Lakeside Charter Public School (only one can be designated per account) to begin earning money for the school of your choice. To designate a school, go to Community Giving at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and enter ID# 118613 for Lakeside School and ID# 114238 for Kennedy School.

*Thank you for your support!*

## Campbell's Labels Program Still Going Strong

Elon Homes has had great response to the Campbell's Labels for Education Program. Staff members are excited to see requested items available so quickly. Elon Homes had been saving for the vans for so long that the lists of items needed throughout the agency had grown quite lengthy. Thanks to supportive churches and individuals, we are meeting many of those needs.

What are we doing with the labels received? Specialized Foster Care received a stereo music system to use for foster family parties and events (13,550 labels); Hewlett Packard printer, deluxe shredder, HP scanner (33,850 labels total) meant great savings on administrative costs; two sets of two-way radios for Lakeside Charter School for added security and better communication among staff (24,800 labels); two microscopes for Kennedy Charter School (11,000 labels).



*With a little help from Kennedy Charter School Director Granville Simmons, Stephen and Michael are eager to work with new microscopes.*



*No cash but 1,100,000 labels "purchased" this dependable seven-passenger van for transporting Kennedy Campus students.*

**Total: 83,200 labels worth of merchandise since August 2002. Labels ready to be deposited: 16,465. Over 3,000 currently banked with Campbell's waiting for the next order.**

Thanks to the program and your help last year, we received a seven-passenger van (1,100,000 labels) to be used at Kennedy Campus in Charlotte. This program is a huge benefit in helping the agency conserve funds while still meeting the growing needs in all program areas. We are truly grateful for the support.

Please don't forget the General Mills Box Tops for Education and Harris Teeter's Together in Education programs. For more information, call Kim Futrell at (336) 538-6121 or visit [www.elonhomes.org/funds.htm](http://www.elonhomes.org/funds.htm)

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## Two Five-Bedroom Houses to be Built on Kennedy Campus

### Houses Will Give Shelter, Assistance and Supervision to Older Youth As They Leave Foster Care

In a collaborative effort with Habitat for Humanity and several nonprofit agencies, Elon Homes will build a home for young people ages 16 to 21 needing therapeutic foster care and a second home for those 18 to 21 who need an independent living/preparation for adult living setting. Building partners include Habitat Charlotte, Americorp, a local church, Central Piedmont Community College, Right Moves for Youth and volunteer groups actively involved with the campus.

There are limited therapeutic foster care housing options for older youth and no housing options for young people aging out of care at 18. Some of the young people will be finishing their therapy or education in the main building; all will benefit from the continued assistance and supervision while residents of either home.

Groundbreaking and grading will begin in May with construction by volunteers starting in June. The project is slated to be completed in time for programs to open by October 1, 2003. Construction, program start-ups, and attending costs are projected to be less than \$150,000. Funds will come from agency fund development efforts, federal monies and, hopefully, President Bush's Faith-Based Initiative Fund.

This visionary project will offer hope and safe haven to teens who might otherwise be homeless or living in dangerous and unwholesome conditions as they age out of the child care system. These new programs will offer an excellent opportunity for mentors and volunteers to play an important part in helping young people prepare for stable home lives, meaningful employment and responsible citizenship.

Residents, staff, donors and board members are asked to join in the construction work under the supervision of Habitat crews. One structure will be located just to the left of the campus entrance and the other will be behind the main building.

Please contact Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Eric Hunter (704/369-2511) to volunteer for this rewarding project.

## The Role of Philanthropy



Jane Grosse, CFRE  
VP for Institutional  
Advancement

For all of us there is a spouse, parent, brother, sister, treasured friend, or favorite teacher whose influence remains with us throughout our lives.

Honoring a loved one through charitable gifts is often an especially meaningful act of paying tribute to someone special, while assuring that worthwhile values continue to influence the world around us.

Memorial and tribute gifts allow us to thoughtfully remember family members and special friends who have been such a vital part of our lives.

Is there someone *you* would wish to honor in such a caring and lasting way? We will be pleased to recommend creative memorial giving ideas that express your admiration in just the right way. Celebrate those special to you through a heartfelt gift in their honor.

Many Elon Homes for Children endowments have been established by contributors who wanted to leave a legacy in memory or honor of a special friend or loved one.

Consider the following ways to leave a legacy.

- A gift included in your will or living trust can establish a lasting legacy.
- A gift of excess retirement funds, such as pension plans or Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), may allow you to give more, while eliminating taxes that may otherwise largely deplete these assets.
- A gift of life insurance that has fulfilled its original purpose may offer excellent tax benefits. Policies that you purchased to protect a loved one who no longer needs that protection can be an excellent way to make a gift in honor of that person.
- Gifts that provide an income can be a tax-effective way to provide you and/or someone else you designate with regular payments for life or other period of time. Check with us or your advisors for more information.

A memorial endowment can be established today. Some Elon Homes for Children supporters choose to begin funding a memorial with lifetime giving and make a final addition through a will or other estate plan. Other friends prefer to fund an endowment with a current outright gift or through a pledge over a period of years. We are pleased to work with you in whatever way best suits your interests and needs. The children and families we serve will be grateful beneficiaries of your generosity.

**Please call for a packet of information about establishing a memorial endowment. 704/369-2506**

*To name Elon Homes for Children Inc. or any charitable organization in your will or trusts, give your attorney its full legal name to use. To make a bequest to Elon Homes for Children Inc. use the following statement:*

*“I leave to Elon Homes for Children Inc., \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or, \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate or specific property) (or, all remaining assets and residue from my estate.)”*

### Your Charitable Dollars at Work

- In the past six months, the Family Care Program has provided services to 19 families (17 single parents/ 2 married couples) with a total of 40 children served.
- A foundation gift will allow 16 students from both campuses to participate in the Carolinas Broyhill Youth Development Retreat at Belmont Abbey College in June. The experience is designed to build positive self-images, encourage personal goal setting and introduce techniques and ideas for resisting negative peer pressure.
- Several volunteer mentors attended the Mentor Alliance Workshop with registration fees paid by Elon Homes for Children.
- Upon admission, each child receives a welcome kit supplied by caring donors.
- Donated tickets made it possible for numerous students to attend four Panther home football games during the past season.